DRDO to industries in private sector in the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The technologies are being transferred both directly by DRDO and through National Research Development Corporation.

(c) 153 DRDO Technologies haqve been transferred to industries in private sector in 7th Plan period. The discipline wise details of technologies are as under:-

Discipline	*No. of Technologies transferred*
Electronics and Instrumentation	63
Mechanical Engineering	16
Special Vehicles	7
Metallurgy	
Chemical Processes	24
Food Technology	27
Clothing & Habitat items	6
Water Purification	5

Dry Docking Facilities for Ships

*335. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are limited facilities for dry docking of ships in the country;

(b) if so, the amount spent in foreign exchange on this account during the last financial year;

(c) whether the Government propose to enlarge this facility in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The existing facilities are not sufficient to meet the demand.

(b) An amount of Rs. 147.47 crores was spent in foreign exchange for the repair of ships during 1990-91.

(c) and (d). The ship repair industry is open to the private sector and Government would like to encourage new units in the private sector or joint sector with promotional assistance from State Governments rather than create new facilities under its control.

Guidelines for raising Foreign Loans

*336. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines framed for public sector undertakings, State Governments and financial institutions for raising foreign loans in the international market without prior permission from the Union Government/ Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) the number of beneficiaries who have so far availed of such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) There are no guidelines being framed which would specifically permit public sector undertakings, State Governments and financial institutions to raise foreign loans in the inter national market without the prior approval from the Union government/ Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Powers and Functions of Controller of Capital Issues

*337. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the powers and functions of the office of the Controller of Capital Issues are proposed to be curtailed;

(b) whether the same powers are proposed to be given to the Securities and Exchange Board of India or any other authority to enable the foreign companies raise their equity strength;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Delegation of certain powers to the Securities and Exchange Board of India is under consideration.

Import of Gold and Silver

*338. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged the government to allow import of gold and silver freely at a nominal customs duty;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check rise in prices of these metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). With reference to the restrictions on import and export of certain currencies and bullion, the federation of Indian chambers of Commerce and Industry in its memorandum entitled "Amendments to FERA", has suggested that restrictions be retained unless accompanied by surrender of EXIM scrips. Government does not find it feasible to permit import of gold and silver against EXIM scrips in the present state of the economy, Balance of Trade and the foreign exchange constraints.

(c) Government does not consider that rise in price of gold and silver is a cause for concern as these are not essential commodities. As such no specific steps are proposed to be taken to check the rise in prices of these metals.

Uruguay Round of Trade Negotiations

*339. SHRI RABI RAY
SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: